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Alberta
Municipal Affairs

106-07396/

Summer Fire Safety Campaign Kit
May - August, 2006

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Fire Prevention and Safety Tips
- The safety tips sheets have been removed from the kit, updated and posted on our website. For safety tips sheets visit the FCO website at: http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/fco_FireFacts.htm

Access to the Online Kit
1. Visit the Fire Commissioner's Office website at: http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/fco_index.htm
2. Under the **"FAST FACTS"** section, click on the "Fire Safety Campaign Kit" option
3. Choose "Fire Service"

For a hard copy version of this campaign kit, or for more information on the summer fire safety campaign, contact the Fire Commissioner's Office at (780) 427-8392 (to call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000) or visit the website at http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/fco_index.htm.

A Message from Alberta's Fire Commissioner

Dear **Publisher/Editor**

Each year from May to August, the Alberta Fire Commissioner's Office (FCO) presents a Summer Fire Safety Campaign to remind Albertans to practice fire prevention and safety during the summer season. I hope you will use the contents in this campaign kit to help spread important life saving fire prevention and safety messages to the residents in your community. Teaching the public to prevent fires, install, test, and maintain smoke alarms, and know what to do in a fire emergency can save lives.

This kit contains a number of media materials such as news releases, advertisements, public service announcements, graphics, and children's activity worksheets to assist you in promoting fire safety. Please use and duplicate the contents of this campaign kit, and work with your local participating fire department to support your summer fire safety messages. Also, safety tips sheets are now available on our website under the heading "Fire Facts" at http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/fco_FireFacts.htm.

For more information on these resources and other planned events, visit our website at www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/fco_index.htm, contact the Fire Commissioner's Office at (780) 427-8392 (dial toll free 310-0000) or contact your local fire department.

Best wishes for a fire-safe summer season!

W. Spence Sample
Acting Fire Commissioner

A Message from Alberta's Fire Commissioner

Dear Albertans:

As we enter the summer season, our thoughts turn to vacations, barbecues, camping, picnics and weekends at the lake. While this is a time of summer fun, it is also a time of increased fire risk. Fire safety is important year-round, but the additional hazards summer brings means it's important to take extra precautions in regard to fire prevention and safety.

So you, your family and friends enjoy a fire-safe summer, remember to take extra precautions around the barbeque, store flammable liquids in a safe place and never use them to start a fire. If you're camping, make sure that your campsite is cleaned of debris and that a bucket of water is within reach for putting out the fire before retiring. Contact your local fire department for information about regulations and permits for fire pits, fireworks and sparklers.

I encourage every Albertan to participate in this year's Summer Fire Safety campaign. Teaching yourselves to prevent fires, install, test, and maintain smoke alarms, and know what to do in a fire emergency, can save your life and the lives of your loved one's and protect your property and the environment.

Please contact your local fire department or the Fire Commissioner's Office at (780) 427-8392 (dial toll free 310-0000) for further information on fire prevention and safety.

Best wishes for a fire-safe summer season!

Yours in fire safety,

W. Spence Sample
Acting Fire Commissioner

Summer Fire Hazards

Summer Fires: up 17 per cent

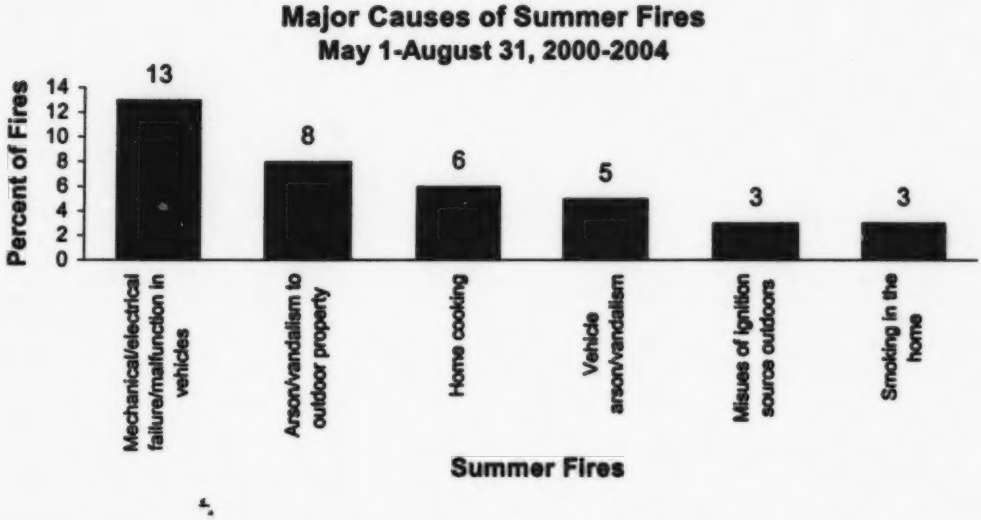
For Albertans, summer fun means vacations, barbeques, weekends at the lake, picnics, and camping. However, the hotter temperatures and dryer conditions, combined with an increase in fire-related activities, means that summer is also a time of high fire risk.

Statistics show, on average, that the number of fires for the five-year period 2000 to 2004 increased by 17 per cent during the summer months (May to August) compared to the other eight months.

On average during this period, there were 2253 fires, eight fire deaths, 105 fire injuries and $373,993,755 dollars in property losses. Automobiles (26 per cent), Homes (one and two family dwelling, apartment, townhouse, condo and mobile home) (24 per cent), and outdoor property (brush, grass, trees, fences) (17 per cent) were involved in the majority of the summer fires.

What are the common causes of summer fires?

The chart below outlines the major summer fire causes during 2000-2004. The text below explains these causes in further detail.



Mechanical or electrical failure or malfunction in vehicles

The majority of summer fires result from vehicle mechanical or electrical failures, such as part failure, leaks or breaks; electrical short circuit; backfires and automatic control failures. Automobile mechanical or electrical failure fires generally occur in the battery, rectifier or charger, igniting gasoline and electric insulation in electric equipment. To prevent these types of vehcile fires from occurring, it is important that vehicle owners keep their vehicles well serviced and maintained, especially during the summer months.

Arson/vandalism to outdoor property

Arson or vandalism to outdoor property is the second common type of summer fires. These fires were typically related to smoker's materials (match, lighter, cigarette) that ignited garbage, grass, brush or leaves. Keep your yard free of easily ignitable materials and keep flammable liquids out of sight and inaccessible to discourage arsonists and vandals. Co-operate with local authorities investigating such fires.

Summer Fire Hazards (cont'd)

Home cooking

Home cooking is the third leading cause of summer fires. Cooking fires typically start on the kitchen stovetop burner when cooking oil or fat is overheated beyond 200°C in a deep fat fryer or frying pan. Reused oil, which may have food residues, will foam, smoke and catch fire at a lower temperature than fresh oil. The best way to fry foods is to use a temperature controlled deep-fat fryer or skillet designed for a maximum temperature of 200°C. These appliances prevent overheating and ignition of cooking oil. In addition, keep a close watch on food that you are cooking at all times to prevent a fire before it starts.

Vehicle arson/vandalism

Vehicle arson or vandalism is the fourth most common source of summer fires. These types of fire are usually lit in the passenger area using a match or lighter to ignite gasoline, trash and waste paper. To prevent vehicle arson or vandalism, properly secure all vehicle doors and windows, store flammable liquids in a secure area, and keep the vehicle and surrounding area clean and free of easily ignitable materials. Co-operate with local authorities investigating such fires.

Misuse of source of ignition outdoors

Smoker's material, inadequate control of open fires and children playing with sources of ignition were the common types of misused ignition sources in summer fires. Frequently, outdoor summer fires that occurred from these were started from smoker's material and open flames (matches, lighters, cigarettes, hot ashes or embers) that started garbage, trash and rubbish and grass, brush and leaves on fire.

Home Smoking

The sixth leading cause of summer fires is smoking in the home. The majority of these fires occurred in the bedroom followed by the living room when a cigarette started agricultural/forestry products, furniture and bedding on fire, respectively. To prevent smoking related fires use large, deep, non-tip ashtrays to prevent ashes from spilling onto furniture and empty ashtrays frequently. Never smoke in bed, or when drowsy from medication or intoxication.

Conclusion

The increase in the number of fires during the summer season reminds us that we need to take extra precautions against fire during this time of year, especially for automobiles, homes, and outdoor properties.

In addition to the summer fire causes identified above, there are also many activities associated with the summer months, such as barbeques, fireworks, flammable fuels-gasoline/propane/natural gas, wild fires and campfires, that increase the fire risk during this time of year. For safety tips related to these summer fire hazards, see the "Fire Facts" tips sheets on the Fire Commissioner's Office website at http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/fco_FireFacts.htm

Albertans are also encouraged to follow fire prevention and safety practices in the home all year round, including the installation and maintenance of smoke alarms and developing and practicing fire escape plans.

Summer Fire Safety: Public Service Announcements (PSAs)

The following public service announcements may be duplicated in local newspapers, or read on television, radio or at public events where fire prevention and safety are promoted.

1. Fireworks (15 seconds)

Fireworks are not toys. They are designed to explode and burn. Statistics show that fireworks often cause serious injuries. The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend an outdoor public display put on by professionals.

2. Barbeque Safety (15 seconds)

Every year in Alberta, people are injured needlessly while lighting their barbecues. The correct way to light your propane barbecue is to open the lid and strike your match or barbecue lighter *before* turning on the gas.

3. Debris (reading time: 15 seconds)

During the dry summer season vegetation and debris can ignite and easily burn the landscape around your home. Please compost or mulch your yard debris. If you must burn, check with your local fire department to obtain information about burning regulations and permits.

4. General Summer Safety message #1 (20 seconds)

For Albertans, summer fun means vacations, barbeques, weekends at the lake, picnics, and camping. However, the hotter temperatures and dryer conditions, mixed with an increase in fire-related activities, means that summer is also a time of high fire risks. By preparing ahead of time, we can respond properly to a fire emergency.

5. General Summer Safety message #2 (20 seconds)

Every year, some Albertans suffer serious injury or death from burns received while camping or barbecuing. Even a small fire has the potential to spread and become a frightening and unmanageable wildfire. Always have a fire extinguisher, baking soda, and water available to put out an accidental fire.

6. Flammable Fuels (20 seconds)

Flammable fuels, such as gasoline, propane and natural gas, are commonly used in the summer months to fuel outdoor equipment such as lawnmowers, barbeques, portable heaters and lanterns, and appliances in recreational vehicles (RV). When used with care, flammables are a safe and convenient fuel. Always store and use flammable liquids and gases in a well-ventilated area, preferably outdoors and away from ignition sources.

7. Barbeque Safety (30 seconds)

Every year in Alberta, people are injured needlessly while lighting their barbecues. The correct way to light your propane barbecue is to open the lid and strike your match or barbecue lighter *before* turning on the gas. When you are finished barbecuing, turn off the propane cylinder valve *and then* the barbecue burners. Always use and store your barbecue and propane cylinder outdoors. For information about cleaning and maintaining your barbecue, read the manufacturer's instructions, or call your fire department.

Summer Fire Safety Campaign: Advertisements

Use these advertisements as promotional items by stamping your fire department or sponsor's logo at the bottom of the ad. Download these images from the Fire Commissioner's Office website at ***www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/fco*** *under 'Campaigns.'*

BBQ SAFELY

When lighting your propane barbecue, open the lid and strike your match or lighter before turning on the gas.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the safe use and maintenance of your barbecue.

FIRE MARSHALS PUBLIC FIRE SAFETY COUNCIL

Keep cleaning rags and fluids in tightly covered metal containers and store in well-ventilated areas away from heat sources.

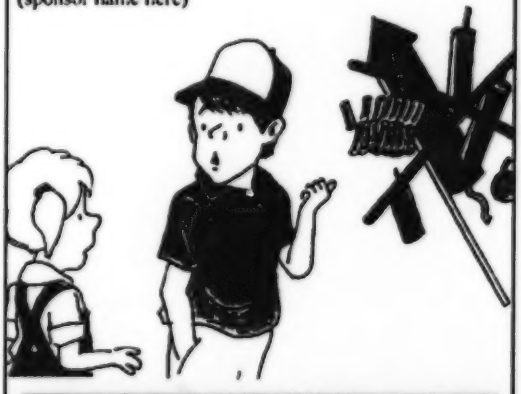
(sponsor name here)

Just a flicker of inattention... and a child could be scarred for life.

You can't watch a child every minute -so play it safe with lighters and matches. Keep them well out of reach of children.

Sponsor name here

(sponsor name here)

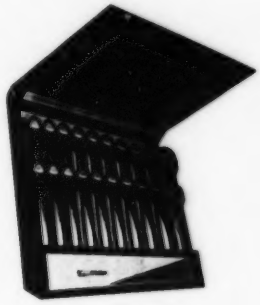


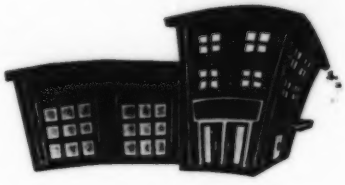
FIREWORKS ARE NOT TOYS

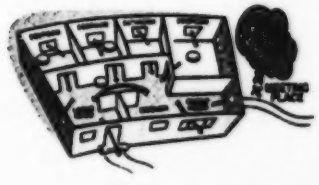
And can cause serious injuries!! Join the crowd at a public display!!!

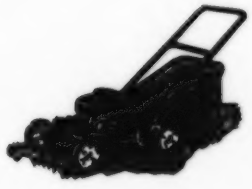
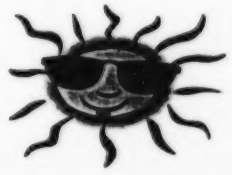
Summer Fire Safety Graphics

Please use these graphics to enhance your Summer Fire Safety Campaign.







Summer Fire Safety – Children's Activities

Please use these activities wherever fire prevention and safety are promoted.

Shake things up with your very own Canada Day shaker!

Canada Day Shaker

What you need:

- Paper towel tube or Pringles© can
- two 1 1/2 inch-wide cardboard circles
- small rocks or pebbles
- ribbon
- crayons
- markers
- tape
- scissors

What to do:

- Fill the paper towel tube with your rocks.
- Then seal the tube by taping the cardboard circles to the ends. (If you are using a Pringles can just put the lid on and cover the tube with a clean piece of paper and you are ready to go.)
- Decorate the tube with markers or crayons *(Canada's official colours are red and white but use whatever colours you have)*
- *Add a fire safety message such as "Fireworks are not toys!"*
- Attach ribbons to each side of the tube with tape.

Canada Day Mini Shaker

Mini Idea:

- To make a MINI July 1st shaker, use an empty film canister instead of a Pringles can, then ….

shake!
shake!
shake!

Summer Fire Safety – Children's Activities (cont'd)

"Sparky's Sparkling Sparkler"

What you need:

- pipe cleaners (red and white)
- glue
- glitter
- scissors

What to do:

- Cut two of the pipe cleaners into four pieces.
- Roll the eight pipe cleaner pieces in glue and cover them with glitter. When the glue is dry, glue the glitter-covered pieces onto the third, whole pipe cleaner.
- Let the sparkling sparkler dry.
- Make a bang at all your 1st of July activities with your safe, *Sparky Sparkling Sparkler.*

Remember kids …

Fireman Frank says

… always leave fireworks to trained professionals.

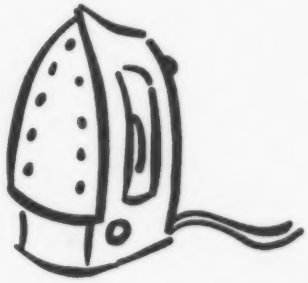
That means sparklers too, because they can get as hot as 650 degrees Celsius. (Wow, that's hot!!)

Summer Fire Safety – Children's Activities (cont'd)

"Word Scramble"

Hot Things Can Burn

Unscramble the letters to name some things that are **HOT** in the summer time



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Summer Fire Safety Tip:

Remember to keep a bucket of water beside your campfire and make sure that the fire is <u>completely</u> out before going to sleep!